three airlines as a result of the hike in air fare.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Provision for seat belts for babies

*207. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no provision of seat belts for babies in the parent's lap while travelling in Air India aircraft;

(b) whether Government are aware that the non-provision of such seat belts is very risky;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the other airlines including the ones smaller than Air India carry such seat belts for children;

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to provide seat belts for children in Air India aircraft; and

(e) what are the IATA Regulations in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (e) Air India follows the regulations of International Air Transport Association and Federal Aviation Agency which provide for allocation of a separate seat and seat belts for every person on board, whose age is not less than two years. Non-provision of seat belts for infants below two years does not constitute a risk, as the adult occupying the seat provided with safety belt is required to hold the child during takeoff and landing whenever the "fasten seat belt" sign is on.

Adverse effect of growing debt burden

*208. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's growing debt burden is hindering capital inflow from foreign sources to the power projects sector, as reported in the Economic Times of the 23rd October, 1992;

(b) whether Government are aware of a study report issued by the US Commerce Department stating that India faced long term challenges resulting from rapidly expanding debt liabilities and whether, as contained in the report, as much as 27 per cent of our total budget is used to cover interests on national debt;

(c) what measures Government propose to take to stem this debt rise and increase its foreign exchange earning through exports; and

(d) whether Government would ensure that India does not fall into the debt trap ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, Government is aware of the study report issued by the US Commerce Department. The interest on National debt is 26.9 per cent of our total budget in 1992-93 (BE).

(c) and (d) Government is conscious about the country's external debt liability and keeps a constant watch on the level of country's indebtedness and likely burden of debt servicing. While contracting foreign loans, it is always kept in view that the debt burden and the debt servicing liability of the country does not exceed the capacity of the economy to service such loans. Government has already introduced a programme of economic reforms aimed at short-term stabilisation combined aimed longer-term restructuring. These reforms would improve the economic condition of the country and revitalise our growth process including our export earning capacity, enhance our capacity to repay the loans and to ensure that this debt servicing burden does not exceed the capacity of the economy to service such loan.